

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Derrick J. Cothran.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Derrick J. Cothran upon his death in ground combat action in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran was a native of Avondale, Louisiana, and was a 2003 graduate of John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge where he excelled in the field of sports at the perennial powerhouse and was a member of not only the football team, but the baseball and wrestling teams as well; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran subsequently enrolled in college and began his studies that would continue for the next two years, however, his love of his country and the need to serve it in the armed forces was a dream he had held on to for years and could no longer resist; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran, with his formidable physical prowess and highly developed athletic abilities, choose the Marine Corps as his course of service because of the many challenges involved in becoming a marine and the tremendous traditions held by the corps; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran left the Parris Island, South Carolina, basic training facility after his successful completion of boot camp and began his first assignment

1 with the 2nd Tank Battalion of the 2nd Marine Division, based in Camp Lejeune, North  
2 Carolina; and

3 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran and the men of his unit were soon deployed  
4 to the Iraqi Theater of Operations and began operating in the hostile confines of Al Anbar  
5 Province, long known as a stronghold for enemy activities in the war-torn middle eastern  
6 country; and

7 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran felt great pride in participating in Operation  
8 Iraqi Freedom but he also felt a great sadness for leaving behind his family and especially  
9 the love of his life, his childhood sweetheart, Victoria, to whom he had been married for  
10 only a short time; and

11 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran was just 21 years old when he and three other  
12 marines left their base camp on April 15, 2006, as part of a patrol looking for signs of  
13 terrorists operating in the area; and

14 WHEREAS, while on this patrol, Lance Corporal Cothran and the men of his unit  
15 encountered enemy forces and engaged them in action, during which Lance Corporal  
16 Cothran and three other leathernecks were mortally wounded by gunfire and an improvised  
17 explosive device; and

18 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cothran and his fallen fellow marines exemplify the  
19 best of all that is good, courageous, and decent in the spirit of the American fighting man  
20 and woman.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
22 does hereby extend its deepest condolences and most profound sorrow to the family of  
23 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Derrick J. Cothran for their sacrifice and loss  
24 and their gratitude for his brave service in America's War On Terror.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 family of Lance Corporal Derrick J. Cothran.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Marionneaux

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